



Eastville, Frome Vale and Hillfields Neighbourhood Partnership

Johanna Holmes

Community Development Worker

Community Engagement Team

Johanna.holmes@bristol.gov.uk

Tel: 0117 9039797



1. Introduction:

On the 20th November 2007 the Eastville, Frome Vale and Hillfields Neighbourhood Partnership was launched at the Woodward Community Resource Centre (in Frome Vale). Five of the six local councillors attended and the event itself was chaired by councillor Steve Comer from Eastville. The aim of the event was to promote the Neighbourhood Partnership, provide information and communicate what sort of improvements it can achieve for the local area. It was also to give local people the opportunity to have their say on what issues they think the their local Neighbourhood Partnership should prioritise and address. The event was also an opportunity for local people to come and speak to local service providers including the police, housing, youth services, parks and green spaces.

Andrew McGrath manager of Bristol City Council's Community Engagement Team gave a short presentation on Neighbourhood Partnerships from a Council perspective. Ben Barker from the Greater Bedminster Community Partnership kindly came along and spoke about their experiences of local governance, partnership working and what could realistically be achieved from a local structure such as a Neighbourhood Partnership.

2. Local Governance.

The intention in introducing Neighbourhood Partnerships (NPs) across Bristol is to provide an enhanced opportunity for local communities to have a greater say in the way services, and responses to local issues, are managed by Bristol City Council, and other service providers. The role local councillors can play in providing this greater say is one of the core elements of the NP structure.

NP boundaries are based on clusters of two or three wards. Eventually there will be 14 NPs covering every part of Bristol. Membership of the NPs is likely to include residents, representatives from voluntary/community organisations, and service providers (Police, Primary Care Trust (PCT), etc). Each NP is likely to develop its membership in ways that are reflective of local priorities and aspirations. However, it is the intention that local councillors will be at the heart of each NP.

Action plans will be developed for each NP. These action plans will be very target and outcome driven, rather than merely being documents that set out communities' aspirations but with no 'teeth'.

In their early stages of development, NPs will be mechanisms for influencing and scrutinising service delivery and service providers. As well as there being regular opportunities for local people to meet with councillors and service providers, it is also intended that other ways of communicating with residents need to be developed as it is recognised that not everyone wishes to attend big public meetings.

3. Neighbourhood Partnership Priorities:

Listed below are the five priorities (plus Any Other Issues) that have been recommended by the local councillors for the NP to begin addressing across the three wards. At the launch event local residents were asked to comment on the suggested priorities and to give their opinions in what needed to be done in addressing them. Next to each priority in the table below you can read the comments that were made by some of those that attended. These comments will be taken in to consideration when the Neighbourhood Partnership sets out an Action Plan in early 2008.

1. Community Facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More toilets – Fishponds Road
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compared to other areas in Bristol, Hillfields/Speedwell seems to loose out in the community stakes. This impacts on the sense of a lack of community.

2. Youth Provision	1. The lack of provision for young people in the Hillfields/Speedwell area is a major issue. Which has a knock on effect with antisocial behaviour, break down of community – low aspirations
	2. Supervised adventure playground
	3. Oldbury Court more money spent on youth centre
	4. Projects with a youth leader
	5. Youth provision in Begbrook

3. Anti-Social Behaviour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hillfields estate needs more to offer young people, the youth club needs to be open more for young and old alike, we need to get families working together
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve parenting skills e.g. classes to raise awareness of unacceptable behaviour
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need a social setting for young people
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Should be seen and have teeth to be upheld
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Should be used sensibly on people causing harm to others

4. Graffiti, Litter & Fly Tipping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community clean ups
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Start young! Competitions, fun ways of engaging children to show how this affects everyone else
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Graffiti opportunities schemes for young people so they don't do it on unsuitable areas
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fly tipping – better access not restrictions to recycling centre

5. Prostitution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No comments
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6. Any Other Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilities and services for older people over 50s plus
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Older people – more clubs and activities during the evening for those who work
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Involve Tesco Lodge Causeway in positive publicity improved community relations
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Repairs to street lighting

4. One to one interviews

During the launch event people were randomly selected to take part in one-to-one interviews. Below are a selection of the questions asked and the responses given:

How satisfied are you with your local area as a place to live?	Number of Responses
Satisfied	1
Fairly satisfied	4
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	
Fairly dissatisfied	3
Very dissatisfied	1

<p>If you were able to change one thing / add / remove one thing- What would it be?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● An adventure Playground
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Have a very good secondary school
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Have a street party
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Remove anti social behaviour
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Better neighbourhood watch to improve safety
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Economic regeneration needed
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Remove the gangs of kids who don't care about the area
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Provision for young people
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Provision for community
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Community and sports facilities

Do you agree with the following statements?

I can influence decisions that affect my local area	Number of Responses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Strongly agree 	2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Tend to agree 	4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Neither agree / disagree 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Tend to disagree 	3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Strongly disagree 	

By working together people in my neighbourhood can influence decisions that affect their neighbourhood	Number of Responses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Strongly agree 	5
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Tend to agree 	3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Neither agree / disagree 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Tend to disagree 	1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Strongly disagree 	

I can influence decisions that affect the public services I personally use	Number of Responses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Strongly agree 	1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Tend to agree 	5
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Neither agree / disagree 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Tend to disagree 	3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Strongly disagree 	

5. What Happens Next

The aim of the Eastville, Frome Vale and Hillfields Neighbourhood Partnership is to continue to engage with local residents about any concerning issues that affect their lives. Hence there will be plenty of other opportunities in the future for people to raise their issues or concerns. Over the course of the year the Neighbourhood Partnership will hold further public events across the three wards. Amongst other things these events will provide up-to-date information on what progress the partnership is making in addressing the identified local priorities and continue to consult residents on what the priorities should be for the Neighbourhood Partnership in the future.

Local councillors from the three wards are currently working to develop an Action Plan that contains practical solutions for addressing the identified local issues. Service providers whose experience, skills and knowledge are needed to begin working on the priorities are being identified during the action planning process. The local councillors may also ask key local residents to sit on the partnership in light of their local knowledge of the issues and what needs to be done in addressing them. Once the Action Plan is completed it will be widely available to everyone who lives and works in Eastville, Hillfields or Frome Vale.